

AMENDMENTS TO SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0047] with the following paragraph:

[0047] The discovery reported herein shows that the substances in normal human and rat plasmas which can ameliorate or correct the magnesium binding defect in erythrocyte membranes are the pentapeptide, Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-NH₂ (SEQ ID NO:1) and the tetrapeptide, Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-NH₂ (SEQ ID NO:2) (Wells and Agrawal, In press; U.S. Pat. No. 6,372,440). Both of these peptides occur at the C-terminal end of the tachykinin Substance P which has the amino acid sequence Arg-Pro-Lys-Pro-Gln-Gln-Phe-Phe-Gly-Leu-Met-NH₂ (SEQ ID NO:3). Evidence has been obtained to indicate that the generalized C-terminal sequence of the tachykinins (SEQ ID NO:4) embodies the substances in normal plasma which prevent the magnesium binding defect in cellular membranes. Furthermore, it has been discovered that the intravenous administration of the tetrapeptide of SEQ ID NO:2 to the salt-sensitive SS/Jr rat not only corrects the magnesium binding defect in erythrocytes of the SS/Jr rat, but also reduced its systolic blood pressure from an elevated value of 210 mm Hg to the control value, which is the blood pressure of the SR/Jr rats (Wells and Agrawal, In press 2004). Thus, the correlation between the levels of the peptides of the present invention in body fluids and abnormal physiological states associated with magnesium binding defect is established by the discoveries reported herein.

Please replace paragraph [0191] with the following paragraph:

Wells and Agrawal (~~In Press~~), (2004) Biol Trace Elem Res. 98:97-108